Outcome of Aviation Conference held at New Delhi

3346. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Aviation Conference with the help of Indian Oil and Natural Gas Commission was recently held at New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what were the decisions taken at the Conference to promote the sale of Indian Oil in order to grab a fresh hold in aviation tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, International Aviation Conference is organized by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) on yearly basis. During the year 2003, 12th International aviation conference was held on 21st and 22nd February, 2003 at Cochin. 95 delegates from 20 countries attended the conference. During the conference, views were exchanged amongst the delegates on trends in global civil aviation, strategy for Indian Civil Aviation, Airport privatisation, alternative aviation fuels, futuristic trends for aircraft maintenance and trends of the specification for ATF etc.

Import of Crude from Iraq

3347. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is still contract-bound with SOMO of Iraq to import 2 million tonnes of crude a year;

(b) whether India has cut its import indent to just one cargo a month because of the on-going crisis;

(c) whether China, Japan and Korea have established direct oil import links with Iraq; and

(d) to what extent the present UN sanction on Iraq is effecting the sourcing of Iraqi crude by India and other SE Asian countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The crude oil imports from Iraq during 2001-02 and 2002-03 were about 3.8 million metric tonnes (MMT) and 4.1 MMT respectively. These

imports constituted about 4.8% and 4.9% of the total crude oil imports during these years.

(c) No such information has been received from any authoritative source.

(d) No crude oil has been allocated by SOMO of Iraq to the Indian oil PSUs since December 2000. As regards the impact of UN sanction in Iraq, no such authentic information is available.

Recruitment of Sports Persons in Oil PSUs

3348. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quota, norms and criteria for recruitment of sports persons in various oil PSUs operating in NER;

(b) the list of sports persons of Oil India Limited participated in National and International events during the last 10 years showing the fields of activities, entry achievements, yearwise position held, outstanding performance, if any, including awards won;

(c) the norms and criteria fixed for their promotion showing cadre-wise promotions given to each of them during the said period; and

(d) the list of such sports persons yet be promoted based on comparative performance in the sports field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Although the Oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) operating in the North-Eastern Region have not earmarked any specific quota, sports and games are generally encouraged amongst their employees. A quota of 20 (Twenty) sports persons in a calendar year subject to a maximum limit of 200 (Two hundred only) at any point of time is, however, provided in Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited. As per requirements of the respective oil PSUs, sports persons within the age limit of 18 to 25 years are identified, based on their educational and professional qualifications, skills and standing in the National and International tournaments.

(b) and (c) In Oil India Limited (OIL), there are three categories of sports persons. Full time working and casual players fall in Category-I and part-time working & part-time players under Category-II. Category-I & Category-II are considered for promotion at par with permanent